

Tanchangya language

The **Tanchangya language** is one of the eleven indigenous languages in Chittagong Hill Tracts in present-day Bangladesh, and an ethnic group in the Indian states of Tripura and Mizoram, as well as Rakhine State in Myanmar. It is categorized as an Indo-Aryan language, despite some scholars having the opinion of it being Tibeto-Burman language.^{[3][4]} It is closely related to Chakma and Chittagonian.

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Vocabulary

Tanchangya language is rooted in Indo-Aryan languages, with mixture of Pali, Sanskrit, Prakrit and other middle-Indo-Aryan languages.

Ancient Tanchangya language

Ancient Tanchangya's words are believed to be the original words of Tanchangya since those words have been handing down a long time ago. It is not simply due to its earlier usage but it is universally understood by every Tanchangya despite any geographical distribution. According to Roti Kanta Tanchangya's collection of some ancient Tanchangya words.^[5]

Tanchangya	
Native to	Bangladesh
Region	Chittagong Hill Tracts (Bangladesh) Mizoram and Tripura (India) Rakhine State (Myanmar)
Ethnicity	Tanchangya people
Native speakers	(22,000 cited 1991 census) ^[1]
Language family	Indo-European - Indo-Iranian - Indo-Aryan - Eastern Tanchangya
Writing system	Tanchangya alphabet
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	tnv
Glottolog	tang1330 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/tang1330) ^[2]

Tanchangya	English
Awga (অগা)	Uneducated, uncivilised
Awnsur (অন্সুর)	Regularly, always
Awnawpinaw (অন-পিন); Awnaw-sawnaw (অন- সনঅ)	Insane, foolish
Awrawk (অরক্)	Nest
Hawla (হলা)	Fry, thick shrub bushes
Awsangya (অসাঙা); Besangya (বেসাঙা)	An unmarriageable relation
A-uk/Aruk (আ-উক্, আরুক্)	Picture; Sketch

Middle Indo-Aryan

The ancient Indo-Aryan language, Sanskrit is the most influential language impacting on most of the present middle-Indo-Aryan languages such as without Hindi, and with Odiya, Bengali, and Assamese and even in Tanchangya language with distorted and half assimilated form. Though Tanchangya language is thought to be the Indo-Aryan language family, due to its long gap of meeting with Pāṇi and Sanskrit, their vocabularies are almost untraceable distorted forms. According to ‘Tanchangya Parichiti’ written by Biro Kumar Tanchangya of the words originated from Indo-Aryan language.

Tanchangya	Pāṇi/Sanskrit	English
Manai, MManei, Manus, Manuit (মানাই, মানেই, মানুইস্, মানুউত্)	Manussa/Manusa	Man
Mela (মেলা)	Mahilā	Woman
Ucu, Uju (উচু, উজু)	Uju (Pāṇi)	Straight

Tibeto-Burman

Tanchangay language does not belong to Tibeto-Burman language family; however, till today there are many Buddhist religious’ terms are found in the Tanchangya Language. It is believed that after the establishment of first Myanmar Empire, the Bagan Dynasty in 11th century CE, Myanmar language and its culture influence to the neighbouring tribes in many ways.

Tanchangya	Myanmar/Arakanese	English
Pullyang/Pillang (পুল্ল্যাং পিলাং)	Palawng (Burmese)	A traditional cane-basket
Pullang (পুলাং)	Paleing (Burmese)	Bottle
Dama Tagawl (ডামা তাগল্)	Straight	Knife
Mawng	Mawng (Burmese)	Gong

Foreign words

In Tanchangya language it could also find few vocabularies derived from Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, Dutch, Turkish, Persian, French, English, and Hindi.

Tanchangya	Arabic/English/ French	English
Awktaw (অক্‌ত)	Owakta (Arabic)	Time
Gawrba (গৰ্‌ৰা)	Gorba(Arabic)	Guest
Gamala/Gabala (গাবালা, গামালা)	Gamela (Portuguese)	Bucket
Balti (বাল্‌তি)	Balde (Portuguese)	Bucket

Opinions on Tanchangya language

Outside Tanchangya tribe, there is a common belief that there is no difference at all between Tanchangya language and Chakma language. Such an instance can be seen at Dr. Satyakam Phukan's article named "An Analysis of the Ethno-Linguistic Roots and Connections of the Chakma and Tanchangya People". According to him, the similarity is much compared to the difference between the words between Chakma and Tanchangya.^[6]

Tanchangya	Chakma	English
Bitsyawl	Bijawl	Smooth
Pawd	Jangal, pawt	Road
Awna sawna	Suli sawlaw	Half-brain
Dighawli	Diri, bilawng	Long time

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